

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE**

**SPECIAL ORDER NO. 1**

**February 25, 2019**

**SUBJECT: VEHICLE INTERVENTION TECHNIQUES – REVISED**

**PURPOSE:** This Order revises Department Manual Section 4/205.20, *Vehicle Intervention Techniques* (VIT), to mandate that officers shall obtain supervisory approval, unless exigent circumstances exist that require immediate action and preclude officers from seeking prior supervisory approval. This Order also requires officers to complete hands-on application training to deploy VIT.

**PROCEDURE: VEHICLE INTERVENTION TECHNIQUES – REVISED.** Department Manual Section 4/205.20, *Vehicle Intervention Techniques*, has been revised. The revised Manual Section is attached, with revisions indicated in italics.

**AMENDMENT:** This Order amends Section 4/205.20 of the Department Manual.

**AUDIT RESPONSIBILITY:** The Commanding Officer, Audit Division, shall review this directive and determine whether an audit or inspection shall be conducted in accordance with Department Manual Section 0/080.30.



**MICHEL R. MOORE**  
Chief of Police

Attachment

DISTRIBUTION "D"

**DEPARTMENT MANUAL  
VOLUME IV  
Revised by Special Order No. 1, 2019**

**205.20 VEHICLE INTERVENTION TECHNIQUES.** Officers, *shall* obtain approval from a supervisor prior to *deploying* a Vehicle Intervention Technique (VIT), unless exigent circumstances exist that require immediate action and preclude officers from seeking prior supervisor approval.

A VIT may be *deployed* when the officer believes that the continued movement of the vehicle would place persons in imminent danger of great bodily harm or death and/or the risk of harm to persons outweighs any risks created by the application of a VIT. The decision to *deploy* a VIT shall be based on careful consideration of the situation, while maintaining a significant regard for public and officer safety. Only officers who have successfully completed Department approved *practical application* training taught by *Emergency Vehicle Operations* personnel are authorized to *deploy* these methods. Currently, the Department has authorized the following:

**A. Tire Deflation Devices.** A Tire Deflation Device (*TDD*), commonly referred to as a “Spike Strip” is used to impede or stop *the* movement of vehicles by deflating the tires.

The *TDD* normally should not be deployed for a pursued vehicle traveling at speeds in excess of 65 mph.

Absent exigent circumstances, the *TDD* should generally not be used in adverse terrain or where geographic configurations increase the risk of injury to the suspect (e.g., on roadways bounded by steep descending embankments, curves), or at any location where safety of proceeding or opposing traffic cannot be assured. Absent exigent circumstances where lethal force is authorized, officers shall not use a *TDD* on two or three wheeled vehicles.

**B. Pursuit Intervention Technique.** The PIT is designed to be executed by a pursuing police vehicle. The PIT is a technique in which the officer’s vehicle makes contact with the rear quarter panel of the suspect’s vehicle, causing it to rotate and come to a stop. If the technique is properly executed, damage to the officer’s vehicle should be minor or negligible. The location chosen to implement a PIT is of paramount importance. The area should be clear of pedestrians and other occupied vehicles, and road conditions should be in good condition (e.g., free from loose gravel, significant road repair). Unless exigent circumstances exist, the PIT **should not** be attempted when the following exists:

- The pursued vehicle is traveling in excess of 35 mph;
- The size of the pursued vehicle is significantly heavier than the primary unit's police vehicle (e.g., buses, motor homes, semi-trucks, dual-rear-wheel pickup trucks);
- *Vehicles with a higher center of gravity;*
- The pursued vehicle is transporting hazardous material;
- Since *deploying* the PIT will cause officers to be in close proximity to the suspect, a PIT should not be used on a suspect who is known to be armed; and,
- *The pursued vehicle is a motorcycle, motor scooter or three-wheeled cycle.*